



2010 E. New York Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46201
317.955.6800 phone
317.234.7636 fax

800.PEN.2550
www.penproducts.com



For Immediate Release:

Indianapolis, IN (July 23, 2012) - The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Office of Apprenticeship announced that the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) and its correctional industries program, PEN Products, is being recognized as a **21st Century Registered Apprenticeship Trailblazer and Innovator**. Indiana's correctional apprenticeship program practice, strategy, and partnerships demonstrate the kinds of innovation and trailblazing efforts that has had significant implications for Registered Apprenticeship in the 21st Century. In honor of this recognition, two representatives from PEN Products will join with Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis as the USDOL commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the National Apprenticeship Act on August 1, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

The signing event and the recognition of the 21st Century Apprenticeship Trailblazer and Innovator is part of the National Education and Action Summit, **"Out Educate, Out Build, Out Innovate"**, that will bring together leaders, partners and stakeholders from throughout the National Registered Apprenticeship System. The National Education and Action Summit will celebrate the role Registered Apprenticeship has played in training the U.S. workforce for the last 75 years and will highlight the role Registered Apprenticeship can play in training America's workforce for the next 75 years by featuring some of the innovative and trailblazing programs, such as Indiana's, that are the foundation of the National Apprenticeship System.

"I congratulate both the staff of PEN Products and the Indiana Department of Correction for the outstanding efforts put forth providing Apprenticeship opportunities, preparing and equipping offenders for a successful re-entry and gaining national recognition," states IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. "The Apprenticeship Trailblazer and Innovator Award is well deserved for a program that has grown from infancy in 2006 to award winning in 2012."

"The Registered Apprenticeship program continues to innovate and play a critical role in preparing the workforce in the 21st Century. It plays a more critical role in training offenders, preparing them for post-release employment, and a successful return to the community. The Registered Apprenticeship program in Indiana will continue to grow with the continued support of the Indiana Department of Correction and the USDOL," comments Doug Evans, Director of Apprenticeship and PEN Products Operations Manager.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Becky Deeb, PEN Products, New Enterprise Development Manager, Public Information Officer, 2010 E. New York Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201, 317-955-6800 x220, 317-408-1120 (cell) bdeeb@idoc.in.gov

Doug Garrison, Indiana Department of Correction, Chief Communications Officer, dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov

Amy Lanum, Indiana Department of Correction, Media Liaison alanum@idoc.in.gov

Stay Connected to the Indiana Department of Correction

- Find us online: www.in.gov/idoc
- Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/IndianaDOC

A division of the Indiana Department of Correction
An Equal Opportunity Employer



- Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/IndianaDOC
- Watch us on YouTube: www.youtube.com/IndianaCorrections